

THE BIG BLUE UNION.

JOHN P. CONE. EDITOR.

MARYSVILLE, KANSAS:

Saturday, December 27, 1862.



"Flag of the free heart's hope and home,
By angel hands to valor given;
Thy stars have lit the walkin dome,
And all thy hues were born of heaven.
FOREVER FLOATH THAT STANDARD SHEET!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us."

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Before another number of the Union is issued, the tired and worn out Old Year, with its reckonings of human joys and woes, will have given place to the fair and jocund New Year of 1863; and as the midnight clocks ring out the knell of the departed and usher in the waiting, expectant New, may they mark the even tenor and joyous anticipations of the pulsating and checkered lives of each and every one of our friends and readers.

"Ring out the Old,
Ring in the New!
Ring out the False,
Ring in the True!"

The dead Old Year; how stands the balance sheet? Upon it is figured up the result—the good and bad motives, the fair resolves, broken and unbroken—all passed upon and summed up, and what is there to our credit? And another trial is given us—another year, fresh, robust and invigorating, bids us on to duty.

"The years that pass come not again,
The things that die no life renew,
But e'en from the rust of his cankered chain
A golden truth is glimmering through;
That to him who learns from errors past,
And turns away with strength sublime,
And makes each year outdo the last,
There is no wasted time."

THE NEW PROGRAMME.

That a definite, decisive, far reaching and vigorous policy on the part of the national Government is at this time indispensably necessary to re-establish the Union all will admit. It has been fearfully proved that it is by no ordinary method that this can be accomplished;—twenty months of terribly exhausting war, the loss of thousands of precious lives and the expenditure of millions of treasure attest it. Then we need some great and drastic measure which will permeate as it were and overpower the evil which is deluging this country in blood;—a national panacea which will be equal to the disease or cause of our troubles;—some line of demarcation to distinguish between Traitors and Unionists; in short, a quick, well aimed and heavy stroke from our leaders and governmental head. We say that such is needed no loyalist will deny.

The President proposes on the 1st of next January to inaugurate such a policy; the rebels have rejected and spurned his offer, until now the final issuance of his Proclamation of Freedom is at hand, and on the first of that month, if there is no backing down from his position, a proclamation will be issued by him designating the States and portions of States still in rebellion, and to all slaves in such territory will be announced perpetual Freedom; "and the Executive Government of the United States including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such person or any of them, in the efforts they may make for their actual freedom."

We have always endorsed the President's Emancipation Proclamation, and have only wished that it had been made long before and its effects tested on the rebellion. Every possible influence that the pro-slavery interest can bring to bear on the Executive will be applied to prevent his carrying it out. Border State conservatism will argue and threaten as of old; the "Democracy" will urge that it should be set aside and some compromising, sugar-coated measure adopted in its stead, but let the people pray that Abraham Lincoln may have sufficient back-bone to stand by his colors! Then we hope to hear of those vigorous movements so long talked of and the speedy closing up of the rebellion.

The Little Drummer Boy.

In a telegraphic dispatch published in our last week's issue, it will be remembered that it was stated that a drummer boy, of the 7th Michigan, 10 years old, was in the first boat that crossed the Rappahannock to Fredericksburg when the Federals contested and occupied the city. For such undaunted bravery, in one so young, the N. Y. Tribune proposes, as a sort of souvenir or keepsake, the presentation of a drum. And though the little fellow may have since suffered the worst and most extreme fortunes of war—though his form may now lie under the turf or bleach upon the open field—his eyes and ears and all of his senses closed forever to the tributes and praise of men,—this, perhaps his last deed, shall never fade away; but

"On the roll of Fame
I shall be inscribed his humble name."

Ten years old—and a soldier—and with a forlorn hope, if we may so call it; for the 7th Michigan crossed under a heavy fire! In Europe, the sovereign's son is made a soldier by courtesy at a tender age—less than 10 years—for war is the trade of kings, and they must commence early to learn the art of havoc—"the science of barbarians," as Napoleon termed it.—With those regal or imperial suckling-soldiers, it is so much sport: it is as the theatre, the hippodrome, the poney-ride—altered to the ecstasy of enjoying the incense to rank and to pomp. Then there is no danger to the infant. It is playing soldiers. But with our drummer-boy it is all work, and fierce, terrible reality. He has no throne in perspective—no advancement in view, no splendid ambition to gratify. To make the "hoarse, dull drum of war" give out its notes on the "glorious field of grief," is his humble task.—He is exposed like Achilles or Ajax, but he has no rank, no honor. He drums: drums: drums: under the hell-fire of artillery or the leaden spray of the musket; amid the wrath, and crash and shriek of strong men in their agony—he drums, and drums. Yes, this little child of 10 years of age claims each post of honor as his own—goes first with the bravest into the hot breath of war, fearless and heroic.—Who is he? What is his name? We shall find out the infant brave: and that he may know The Tribune has gazetted him as worthy of honor, we bespeak for ourselves the privilege of making him a "presentation."

What is best for the child?—Too young to carry arms: too serious for toys. Well, we shall send him a Drum—with an inscription on it—so that when he utters the trilling notes of discipline and courage, he will bear about him a souvenir of his pluck.

THE WEATHER—PHENOMENON—CHRISTMAS, ETC.—The weather continues delightful. Yesterday and to-day it was enough to inspire the Muses in any one at all poetically habited. A short walk would have done it, sure! In fact we have had a very open Fall, so warm and pleasant as to give "out-door" work the preference; and the "signs" say that we are to have an open Winter; and in this connection we mention a matter that was told us the other day by a person who has paid considerable attention to the movements of the celestial bodies, who says that the sun is several degrees, or as he expressed it, "half a mile" farther north this year, than last, the time and place of measurement corresponding exactly with that of last year. We ain't well posted enough in astronomical affairs to explain the phenomenon, if it is such.

Christmas passed off quietly here.—The ball at the American in the evening was well attended, and the trippings of the toe, called light and fantastic, wore away the bigger part of the—till morning.

But Christmas, with his round, generous face, hand in hand with the children's favorite, Santa Claus, has gone; what a pity he could not have left with us as a National anthem, the same song which so inspired the heavenly host on the birth day morn of Christ:—"Peace on earth and good will to men."

LATEST NEWS.—By an eastern mail which happened (our postal arrangements are presided over by the genius-god Chance,) along last evening we get an item or two of later news than what is contained in our summary and dispatches. Secretaries Seward and Chase had resigned their seats in the Cabinet, the former in consequence of having been censured in a caucus held by the Republican members of Congress. But their resignations were not accepted, when they resumed their positions. Conway had been making a fool of himself by offering in the House a set of secession resolutions, which were promptly tabled by a vote of 132 yeas to 1 nay, Conway voting in the negative!

Gleason's Literary Companion in Colors.

This valuable Literary Weekly will commence a new volume January 1st, 1863, in grand style, and will be printed in eight different colors, something which never has been attempted in this or any other country, with new type and new dress throughout. The Companion is an elegant, moral and refined miscellaneous Family Journal. Its columns are devoted to Polite Literature, Wit and Humor, Prose and Poetic Gems. An unrivalled corps of writers and artists have been engaged for the coming year, and several new and popular features will be introduced.—Each number will be beautifully illustrated. In size the Literary Companion is some fifteen hundred square inches, forming a mammoth weekly of sixteen octavo pages, and containing nearly twice as much reading matter and of a more refined character than any other weekly paper.—Terms, only \$2 a year. Sample copies sent free. Published weekly by F. Gleason, corner of Tremont and Bromfield streets, Boston, Mass.

ON TRIAL FOR ARSON.—On last Monday, Wolfred Reedy, was brought before Justice Hess, upon the charge of setting fire to six wheat stacks, belonging to Wm. Thompson, of Blue Rapids in this county, on the night of the 5th inst. It appeared from the evidence that the stacks were fired between 11 and 12 o'clock. The trial lasted for two days and nights and resulted in discharging Mr. Reedy. J. D. Brumbaugh, and T. H. Baker, appeared for the State, and J. H. Clardy for defence. One thing is certain, the stacks were set on fire, and if there is any possible way to find out the person who perpetrated the crime, he should be brought to summary justice.

Just as we were going to press we were handed a letter by Mr. Blodgett, from his son, in the 9th Kansas, which participated in the recent fight at Prairie Grove, Ark. He says that Bowen's Regiment, the 13th, suffered severely, that several of the men from Marysville were killed and many wounded. He mentions the name of Benjamin Hoornbeck, a young man from this place, as being killed. Poor Ben. The last time we saw him we had no thought of his going so soon. And his grief-stricken parents must be equally unprepared and overwhelmed by this sad stroke. "Sleep soldier, sleep! from sorrow free,
And sin and strife. 'Tis well with thee."

RAGS.—Save your rags—they are worth the cash, and will continue in demand so long as the paper panic rages. The decrease in the supply of cotton and the large amounts of the manufactured article used in the army for linens and bandages, have made the supply for paper makers exceedingly limited, and hence we see that the price of paper, news and writing, has gone up nearly half within a few weeks past. There is not a household in the land but what could pick up and economize in this item and help to swell the aggregate "pile o' duds," thereby giving relief to the paper manufacturer and consumer. Hang out the rag-bag!

IMMIGRATION.—The Congressional Record says Rev. J. U. Parsons has brought a colony from Bristol, Maine, to settle on the Big Blue. The colony designs to set up some extensive manufacturing establishment.—Exchange.

They could find no better point for settlement than this. There is good water power here, and all the natural advantages for manufacturing purposes. A good flouring mill would pay a hundred per cent. Nature has done enough for the country in and around the Valley of the Big Blue, and all it now wants is sturdy and active hands to bring out her dormant resources. Let them come on!

Secretary Stanton, in his annual report, makes the statement that there are ten military departments; and the armies operating in those departments, according to the official returns, constitute a force of seven hundred and seventy-five thousand three hundred and thirty-five men; that since the date of the returns, this number has been increased to over eight hundred thousand, and when the quotas are filled up, will amount to over one million of men.

Gen. Blunt's command has been extended, and now embraces besides the Kansas or 10th military district, the Indian Territory (9th district) and western Arkansas (8th district.) And news from Washington announces that Maj. T. J. Weed, A. A. G., has been appointed Provost Marshal General of this State.

JOE WEAVER.—We have turned out a goodly amount of this work during the last few weeks, and are always prepared to do in the best manner and on reasonable terms, every kind, such as, Handbills, Letter Heads, Cards, Ball Tickets, Deeds, Notes, in fact every variety of blanks, Posters, &c., etc. Paper and printer's material is rising rapidly, and we advise those wishing work done in this line to speak soon.

HOLIDAYS.—There will be no paper issued from this office next week. Christmas and New Year's come but once a year, and the editor and "all hands" think the interim should be "duly observed," or in other words, that the "golden clasp which binds together the volume of the week," should not be severed or suffered to be "profaned" by continued and laborious hands.

The Government tax on newspapers is excessive. It reaches them in four different ways. The tax on white paper is large—on ink, on every advertisement—on the income. It would seem that the tax was arranged to embarrass newspapers.—It certainly forces them to raise their prices or publish at an actual loss. The price of white paper has increased within the past three months to the extraordinary degree of one hundred per cent!

The official report gives the total loss of killed and wounded, in Generals Blunt and Herron's command, at the battle of Prairie Grove, as 995. The rebel loss in killed and wounded, is about 2,700 and nearly 6,000 by desertion. We have as yet seen no list of killed and wounded on our side in the battle.

The Missouri Democrat figures up sixty-nine emancipationists to forty Conservatives in the lower House of the Missouri Legislature. The Senate is also understood to be largely for Emancipation, thus securing two emancipationists as United States Senators.

Some 250 Government hands who went out to Denver with Gov't horses a few weeks ago, arrived here on their return Wednesday evening and camped, and rolled out with their luggage early next morning for Leavenworth. They were rather hard nuts.

Contraband or confiscated stock—horses, mules, cattle and sheep, taken from rebels in Missouri—was sold recently in Lawrence to the amount of \$9,000. Quite an item, as the Republican remarks, for Uncle Sam in these hard times.

CANDIDATES.—We notice in some of our State exchanges that the claims of Josiah Kellogg, of Leavenworth, and W. P. Douthitt, of Topeka, Representatives elect, are being canvassed for the Speakership of the House at the coming session. May the best man win.

A LOCAL ITEM.—For several days past we have heard considerable said about Christmas Gift. Chris. is a pretty popular fellow, and Nibbs wishes to know if he has any namesake or family connection in these parts.

In the U. S. House of Representatives on the 15th inst., the President's Emancipation Proclamation was endorsed and adopted by a vote of 78 against 51.

There will be divine service in this city to-morrow, by the Rev. Mr. Hague, at the usual time and place of public worship.

Senator Pomeroy has our thanks for a copy of the Preliminary Report on the Eighth Census.

The losses of the 7th Kansas in the last battle at Coffeyville, Miss. were, killed 3 wounded 8, and missing 9.

The "hole in the wall," over the way, was last night cleaned out by a lady.—There's pluck!

HELP FOR MISSOURI.

Senator Henderson has introduced a very important bill into the United States Senate which contemplates an appropriation by the general government of twenty-five millions of United States six per cent. bonds to compensate slave owners in Missouri for the emancipation of their slaves. The State is to get rid of the institution within two years of the 4th of July next, and is never again to tolerate slavery in her midst. This looks more like work of the right sort than anything we have yet seen. Push on the column. Let the work be done up this time thoroughly, and with entire justice to all parties. But above all things, see that it is accomplished.—St. Jo. Herald.

THE NEWS.

In our summary of war news from the army of the Potomac, last week, we said that affairs looked cheering. The south side of the Rappahannock had been reached in safety, and Fredericksburg invested by our gallant forces, and a battle was in progress—it was cut short there. Another day and the mail brought us word that our army was defeated: but still later accounts show that it was not beaten or routed, but that it suffered severely in the fight against the rebels in their intrenchments, on the 13th instant; and two days after, the night of the 15th, re-crossed the river to Falmouth, where it remains, according to latest accounts about *status quo*. As one of the reasons for this latter move or re-crossing of the river by Burnside, it is stated that the Rappahannock, a stream subject to sudden rises, was swelling from a heavy rain and about sweeping off the bridge therefore leaving our forces without means of escape, supposing the rebels should too strong for them.

We give below our latest dispatches: New York, Dec. 22.

Our returns of the losses at Fredericksburg, are, killed 1,128—wounded, 9,105—missing, 2,078.

New York, Dec. 23.

Two squadrons of Bank's expedition passed Key West on the 9th 10th. Gen. Fremont left for St. Louis yesterday.

New York, Dec. 19.

Dispatches from the army of the Potomac say 600 of our dead were buried on Wednesday and 415 to day. Nearly all the dead were found stripped of their clothing, lying naked on the ground.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 16th says the rebel loss at the battle of Fredericksburg was 2,500. 1,100 wounded had arrived there or were on the way there Monday night.

They lost Generals Cragg and Cobb, and many field officers. The 3d South Carolina Regiment was nearly annihilated.

The same paper states that the rebel positions back of Fredericksburg are impregnable. It also contains a dispatch from Goldsborough stating that 3,000 rebels fought the abolitionists at Kingston the day before from 8 A. M., to 1 P. M.—That after driving the abolitionists once the rebel Gen. Evans was compelled, to retire, leaving the vandals to occupy the town. No report of the loss was given. The town was greatly injured by the Union bombardment.

New York, Dec. 19.

A special Nashville dispatch dated the 18th, to the Tribune, says Gen. Dodge with his cavalry has been fighting Forrest all day in the vicinity of Corinth. Forrest has 4,000, and Dodge, 2,500 cavalry.

Morgan is reported to be moving to cut off the Louisville and Nashville railroad. It is reported that Van Dorn with 50,000 men has arrived at Stevenson, Alabama, to join Bragg.

Kirby Smith is reported moving towards Lebanon to support Morgan.

The whole force of rebels in Tennessee is estimated at 70,000. They had 25,000 at Murfreesboro yesterday. The outposts are about ten miles from Nashville.

Gen. Rosecrans has dismissed a large number of officers for drunkenness and disobedience of orders.

New York, Dec. 20.

Stocks steady, with fair business.—Money and Exchange, unchanged.

New York, Dec. 20.

Details of the victory of Kingston, N. C. show that the march was a continued series of fighting in which all distinguished themselves.

Washington, Dec. 19.

The petition presented to-day by Representative Colfax, was referred to the committee of ways and means. It was from numerous editors and publishers in favor of reduction and abolition of duty on paper.

Fortress Monroe, Dec. 19.

Gen. Foster's forces have taken Kingston, N. C., capturing 500 prisoners, and eleven pieces of artillery.

When Col. Lee occupied Holly Springs Mississippi, some weeks since, with cavalry, a colored man gave him information which was of much importance, and led among other things, the capture of a rebel officer. When Col. Lee retired the negro was left behind, and was immediately hanged by a mob of citizens and rebel soldiers.

Hon. Asa Hairgrove, State Auditor, elect, has removed his family to the Capital. We are pleased to note such accessions to our population. Everybody likes the new Auditor of State.—Topeka Tribune.